

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 through 17: (canceled)

Claim 18. (original) A transaxle, comprising:

a housing; and

a pair of axially aligned axles rotatably supported in said housing, said axles being selectively coupled together, said axles being rotatably fixed to one another when said axles are coupled together, said axles being free to rotate relative to one another when said axles are not coupled together.

Claim 19. (original) The transaxle of Claim 18, further comprising an input shaft rotatably supported by said housing, and reduction gearing operatively coupling one of said axles to said input shaft.

Claim 20. (original) The transaxle of Claim 18, in combination with:

an engine operatively coupled to said transaxle;

a handle;

a working device being powered by said engine; and

a ground-engaging wheel connected to each said axle; whereby said combination provides an implement, movement of said implement being controlled by an operator through said handle.

Claim 21. (original) The transaxle of Claim 18, further comprising a collar having first and second positions, said collar engaging one of said axles in said first position, and said collar engaging both of said axles in said second position.

Claim 22. (original) The transaxle of Claim 21, wherein said collar is biased into one of its first and second positions.

Claim 23. (original) A transaxle, comprising:

a housing including first and second housing portions which interface substantially along a first plane;

at least one axle rotatably supported by said housing;

reduction gearing operably coupled to said at least one axle, said reduction gearing including two parallel shafts on which are disposed a plurality of gears, said shafts lying in a second plane, said first and second planes being nonparallel; and

at least one bushing supported by said housing, said bushing including a pair of shaft retaining portions, each shaft retaining portion respectively supporting one end of each of said parallel shafts, said second plane extending between said shaft retaining portions.

Claim 24. (original) The transaxle of Claim 23, wherein said second plane is substantially perpendicular to said first plane.

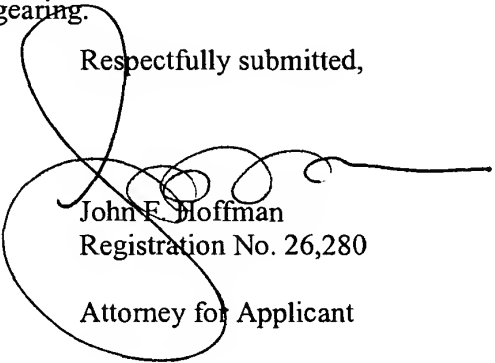
Claim 25. (original) The transaxle of Claim 23, in combination with:
an engine operatively coupled to said transaxle;
a handle;
a working device being powered by said engine; and
at least one ground-engaging wheel connected to said axle; whereby said combination provides and implement, movement of said implement being controlled by an operator through said handle..

Claim 26. (original) The transaxle of Claim 23, wherein said bushing is elongate, and includes opposite ends each including a shaft retaining portion.

Claim 27. (original) The transaxle of Claim 23, wherein one of said first and second housing portions includes a recess into which said bushing is received.

Claim 28. (original) The transaxle of Claim 23, further comprising an input shaft operatively coupled to said reduction gearing.

Respectfully submitted,



John E. Boffman
Registration No. 26,280

Attorney for Applicant

JFH/pmp

BAKER & DANIELS
111 East Wayne Street, Suite 800
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Date: August 8, 2003